

## Arlène Eaton-Erickson

Manager of Intake, Outreach and Systemic Advocacy OCYA

## Renewed Focus – A Special Report on Youth Opioid Use in Alberta

In June 2021 the Office of the Child and Youth Advocate of Alberta (OCYA) released Renewed Focus: A Follow-Up Report on Youth Opioid Use in Alberta. The OCYA engaged young people, stakeholders and communities across Alberta who have been affected by opioid use and sought to determine what was working and what the barriers were for these young people. This systemic advocacy work occurred in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic has significant influence on young people, especially those experiencing vulnerabilities, including those using opioids. This presentation will highlight the voices and experiences of young people and stakeholders, our findings and our recommendation to government.